

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a silicon nitride wear resistant member composed of silicon nitride sintered body containing 1 – 10 mass% of rare earth element in terms of oxide thereof as sintering agent, wherein a total oxygen content of the silicon nitride sintered body is 6 mass% or less, a porosity of the silicon nitride sintered body is 0.5 vol.% or less, and a maximum size of pore existing in grain boundary phase of the silicon nitride sintered body is  $0.3 \mu\text{m}$  or less. According to the above structure of the present invention, there can be provided a silicon nitride wear resistant member and a method of manufacturing the member having a high strength and a toughness property, and particularly excellent in sliding characteristics.